

# LAMAR COUNTY

## Honorable Lewis E. Gosa

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Geraldine Walton  
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Rev. O.L. Morgan, Jr.  
Linda Hughes  
Charles Cook

Alex Brown  
Ronald Strawbridge, Sr.  
Jackie Mitchell  
Fayrene H. Turner  
Linda Robertson  
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## Council Priorities

### 1. Short-term detention

*Continue to seek additional funding for the short-term detention center.*

### 2. Teen pregnancy

*Educate teens and parents on pregnancy prevention.*

### 3. Alcohol and drug counseling for teens and parents in Lamar County.

*Develop and expand alcohol and substance abuse information in elementary and middle schools. Intervention and prevention programs that address substance abuse.*

# Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

## Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

### Lamar County is in need of more day care facilities

#### Action Steps

- 1) Write grants to secure more funds for day cares.
- 2) Encourage day care training programs for workers.
- 3) Investigate standards for home day cares.

### Need for after school program for children

#### Action Steps

- 1) Promote local school programs.
- 2) Secure grant funding.
- 3) Encourage Volunteerism from the private sector.

### Prepared children

#### Action Steps

- 1) Coordination of school readiness activities between daycares, Pre-K programs and school kindergarten programs.
- 2) Explore funding opportunities for additional Pre-K programs.

## Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

### Availability of child care

#### Action Steps

- 1) Make daycare a viable attaining profession.
- 2) Review laws involved in attaining license.
- 3) Review laws to ensure safety as well as availability.

### Transportation

#### Action Steps

- 1) Address funding and operational issues with state agencies involved.
- 2) Access other transportation providers in the area.
- 3) Establish grants to improve transportation.

## Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

### Home school regulations and requirements

#### Action Steps

- 1) Require 140 clock hours of instruction in core subjects.
- 2) Require home schools to create lesson plans by the Alabama Course of Study.
- 3) Send House and Senate Representatives, as well as, the State Board of Education the enrollment figures on students lost to home schools.

### Increase funding for alternative schools

#### Action Steps

- 1) Seek additional funding through grants and provide adequate funding for the alternative program.
- 2) Use the school incident report to determine the need for an alternative program.
- 3) Involve retired teachers and other volunteers from the community, after a background check, to assist in the alternative school.

### Need for after school programs (remediation for 7th and 8th grades)

#### Action Steps

- 1) Seek grants and funding for after school tutoring programs.

## Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

### Teen pregnancy

#### Action Steps

- 1) Communicate regularly with school nurses, DHR, Mental Health, and other agencies involved with teens to identify those at risk.
- 2) Educate teens and the general public through media and newspapers about pregnancy prevention services available.
- 3) Support development of teen focused programs that promote awareness of abstinence education, learning to deal with peer pressure, and pregnancy prevention.

### Substance abuse prevention

#### Action Steps

- 1) Promote personal and interpersonal skills in relation to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use.
- 2) Encourage unfavorable attitudes toward alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.
- 3) Provide knowledge of the negative consequences of drug use and benefits of a drug-free lifestyle.

## **Parenting classes**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Promote education, awareness, and betterment of parental skills.
- 2) Provide knowledge and examples of appropriate parenting skills.
- 3) Encourage a positive approach.

## **Parent Involvement Skills**

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

## **Parents and guardians need to become more involved in their children's health, education and emotional well-being**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Increase the number of referrals for the newly established Parent Project.
- 2) Work with the local systems to develop a family planning center. Work with the Lamar County Board of Education, faith based organizations and local agencies to determine needs.

## **Parents need information and tools to keep their children drug free**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Contact State, Federal and private sources of information to obtain informational brochures concerning drug and alcohol use that can be distributed at schools, local businesses and other local sources.
- 2) Encourage participation in family support groups.

## **1. Collaborate with local agencies to conduct parenting workshops and seminars**

## **2. Continue to work with Bevill State and SOS programs to promote their involvement with parenting seminars and workshops**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Develop a plan for a family resource center in Lamar County.
- 2) Continue to develop a family planning program within the local school systems.
- 3) Begin to look for monies available by grants for a family resource center.

## Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

### Short term detention

#### Action Steps

- 1) Submit grant applications to obtain operating funds.
- 2) Seek funds from local governments.
- 3) Obtain necessary approvals from oversight agencies.

### Drug and alcohol abuse

#### Action Steps

- 1) Explore availability of local programs.
- 2) Educate agencies and general public.
- 3) Coordinate available local programs with community corrections.

### Parental controls/child wellbeing

#### Action Steps

- 1) Continue parenting classes.
- 2) Develop activities for children beyond sports activities.

## Policy Recommendations

- Investigate funding sources to implement teen outreach programs.
- Continue to provide funding for educational prevention programs.
- Additional funding for the short-term detention center.
- All students of home schools will be required to pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam.
- Children in the alternative school should be required to attend sufficient counseling.
- Provide transportation for work and school purposes, including GED preparation.
- Provide funding for a transportation system and explore the possibilities of working with other agencies that already provide transportation services in the area.
- Remove unnecessary red tape in the day care system.
- Provide funding for after school programs.